

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This list of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) Internal combustion engine having cylinder groups and using dry-sump-principle pressure lubrication, comprising:

a crankcase having an oil suction space in a lower part thereof for collecting lubricant oil;

an oil return pump that is configured to convey lubricant oil out of the oil suction space through an oil suction line;

an annular space arranged around cylinder groups, wherein the oil suction line of the oil return pump delivers lubricant oil into the annular space, and wherein the annular space is fluidly coupled to a vent connection that is exposed to the atmosphere for defoaming the lubricant oil collected within the annular space;

an oil supply container that is fluidly coupled to the annular space for receiving defoamed lubricant oil from the annular space; and

a main delivery pump configured for conveying lubricant oil from the oil supply container to consumers of the lubricant oil,

wherein the oil supply container is separate from the oil suction space and is positioned to at least partially surround the oil suction space, at least a portion of the oil supply container being disposed at an elevation beneath the oil suction space.

8. (Previously Presented) Internal combustion engine according to claim 7, wherein the engine is an opposed-cylinder engine.

9. (Previously Presented) Internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the annular space is open to a crank space and is gasket-sealed.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) Internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the oil supply container is integrated into the crankcase.

12. (Previously Presented) Internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 11, wherein oil supply container is integrated into the crankcase so as to be separated from the oil suction space by one or more bulkhead walls.

13. (Previously Presented) Internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 7, wherein the crankcase is of open deck configuration.